

THE YEAR'S MUSIC IN JERSEY CITY.

It may be generally said that the past musical season was by far the most noteworthy one in the history of the United States. While in every other country music has suffered from the effects of the war, here in America an ever-increasing number of concerts and recitals, the formation of new opera companies and symphony orchestras, the giving of outdoor pageants, the community choruses and other forms of civic musical achievement betoken the great interest in music caused last season to surpass all others. This increased interest throughout the country has been strongly felt in Jersey City.

The first musical event to claim our attention is Jersey City's first music festival, under the direction of Mr. Mortimer Wiaka. The festival was in reality a tri-city event, choruses recruited from Newark, Paterson and Jersey City mutually taking part in a festival in each of the three cities. The principal features of the programmes were the appearance of famous artists, the singing of a local soloist chosen by open competition, the rendition of a very fine school children's programme under the direction of Mr. Moritz Schwarz, and the performance of the Berlioz Requiem. It may be said of the festival that, considering the newness of the idea (it was Jersey City's first festival), it was an unqualified success.

Attention must also be given to the Lenten musical afternoons held at the First Congregational Church. These recitals, featuring prominent metropolitan artists, were given in the afternoon weekly during Lent at a nominal sum; and while the hour prevented the attendance of business men, nevertheless standing room only was the rule, surely a sufficient indication of the interest taken in good music by the citizens of Jersey City.

The work of our own local choral organization comes in for its share of appreciation. Under the leadership of

Mr. Roy K. Falconer, the Schubert Glee Club has undergone a revivification, and the programmes presented by this organization during the last year were a source of great credit to it. Not to be outdone by the men, the Women's Glee Club, under the leadership of Mr. Arthur Woodruff, fairly surpassed it-



JAMES P. DUNN.

self, their series of concerts being made especially noteworthy by the first performance of Harriet Ware's cantata "Undine."

The work of the Musicians' Society of Jersey City has won for this organization a definite place in the community. Under its auspices a number of fine musical events took place. Among these may be mentioned an organ recital, participated in by nearly all the organists of prominence in the city. But, in the judgment of the writer, perhaps the most important event of the season took place under the auspices of the society—a manuscript evening by Jersey City composers. Creative art is undoubtedly the highest form of musical activity. Surely the fostering of creative talent is among

the noblest tasks an organization can address itself to, and in giving the first manuscript evening by local composers the Jersey City Musicians' Society has earned the gratitude of the community.

Any survey of the musical season would indeed be incomplete if it failed to mention the work of the local church choirs. These, indeed, are a prominent means in the work of bringing direct down to the people the message of good music. While space limitations preclude specific mention of their achievements, it may be said that in addition to rendering the music of the church services in a generally creditable manner nearly all these organizations distinguished themselves by the rendition of secular concerts, at which the standard oratorios and choral works were performed with a degree of efficiency

reflecting great credit on all concerned. It seems also fit to mention at this time the work of some private organizations, such as the music section of the Women's Club and the Tuesday Afternoon Music Club, which have been contributing their full quota toward the musical growth of the city.

Lastly, a consideration of the local teaching season presents a situation extremely gratifying to those interested in the musical growth of the city. Jersey City boasts the presence of a large number of fine teachers. Numerous pupils' recitals have been held, and it is to be noted with pleasure that many pupils of local teachers have appeared in metropolitan music circles, where they fully held their own against the world-wide competition to be met with there.

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The problem of amusement for a family of children in these days of the motion picture and other attractions is becoming greater and greater. Present day children are so used to having things done for them that they are getting out of the way of doing for themselves.

If, however, there is only a little real musical taste in a family, the problem is made far simpler. A child can be taught to do for himself as easily as he can form the habit of letting others do for him. So the mother who wants to see her children guided aright and who is firm enough to see that they form the habit of amusing themselves finds that in music she has an invaluable aid.

Violin or cello and piano seems the readiest combination of instruments to interest the children. According to the size of the family the assortment of instruments can be increased, however, until, possibly with the help of neighboring children, a string quartet or piano quintet is feasible. When this has been achieved a part at least of the problem of amusement has been solved, for a habit of doing for themselves, and that in a highly profitable manner, has been formed.

Lessons should be started as early in the child's career as possible, even if a small sized violin or cello has to be used. Only a mother who has had a musical family can know the amount of work entailed in the first few months. Progress, though, rests largely with the

mother, for she is the one who must see that the hated practising is not neglected. Then, too, she can be an invaluable help to the teacher by herself learning the correct posture to be maintained and then seeing that it is kept. If she is musical herself she can be largely responsible for forming a taste for the best music in the children and for inculcating right and healthful ideas as to the place of music in life.



MRS. BERTHA CUSHING CHILD.

THE MUSICIANS' SOCIETY OF JERSEY CITY

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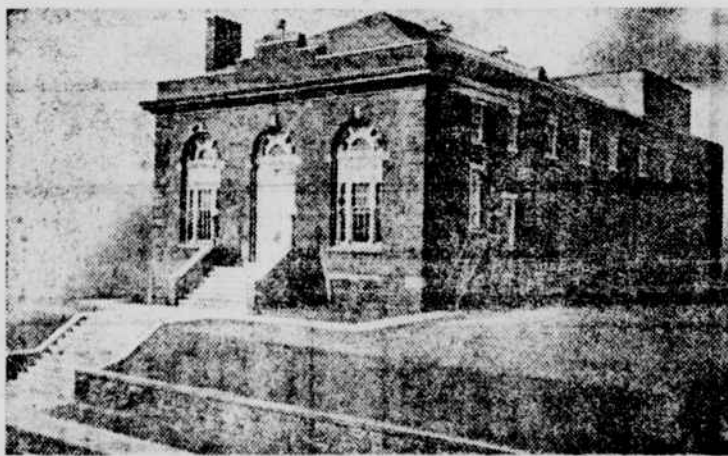
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